

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
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USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR, CH, VN
SUBJECT: PEKING AND THE VIETNAMESE WORKER'S PARTY
CONGRESS

SUMMARY: THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE HAS
SENT A RATHER PERFUNCTORY GREETING TO THE 4TH VIETNAMESE
WORKER'S PARTY CONGRESS. FOLLOWING ITS RECENT PRATICE OF
NOT ATTENDING FOREIGN COMMUNIST PARTY MEETINGS, PEKING DID
NOT DISTPATCH A HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATION TO THE HANOI MEETING
AS IT DID IN 1960. PRC MEDIA TREATMENT OF THE MEETING, LIKE
THE PARTY MESSAGE, IS LIKELY TO BE BOTH CORRECT AND CIRCUMSPECT.
END SUMMARY.

1. THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE HAS SENT
A MESSAGE OF GREETING TO THE 4TH VIETNAMESE WORKER'S PARTY
CONGRESS WHICH CONVENED IN HANOI ON DECEMBER 14. THE RATHER
LOW-KEY CHINESE PARTY MESSAGE REFLECTS THE LESS INTIMATE,
BUT CORRECT, NATURE OF SINO-VIETNAMESE RELTIONS TODAY. AFTER
EXTENDING "WARMEST FRATERNAL GREETINGS" THE MESSAGE HAILS
VIETNAMESE ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE THE 3RD CONGRESS, PARTICULARLY
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THE WINNING OF NATIONAL LIBERATION AND INDEPENDENCE. THE

MESSAGE POINTS OUT THAT THEIR REVOLUTIONARY FRIENDSHIP WAS "METICULOUSLY NURTURED" BY MAO AND HO AND REITERATES THE COMMITMENTS OF THE CHINESE PARTY AND PEOPLE UNDER HUA KUO-FENG'S LEADERSHIP TO CARRY OUT MAO'S BEHESTS AND CONTINUE TO CONSOLIDATE THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES AND PEOPLES.

2. WHEN THE 3RD VIETNAMESE WORKER'S PARTY CONGRESS CONVENED IN SEPTEMBER 1960, DURING VIETNAM'S 15TH INDEPENDENCE PROCLAMATION CELEBRATION, THE CHINESE DISPATCHED A HIGH-LEVEL PARTY AND GOVERNMENT DELEGATION HEADED BY THEN POLITBURO MEMBER AND VICE PERMIER LI CU-CHUN AND INCLUDING YEH CHIEN-YING. IN RECENT YEARS, HOWEVER, CHINA HAS NOT PARTICIPATED IN FOREIGN COMMUNIST PARTY MEETINGS. AND IN KEEPING WITH THIS PRATICE, DID NOT SEND A DELEGATION TO THE VIETNAMESE PARTY CONGRESA. SIMILARLY, PEKING DID NOT DISPATCH A DELEGATION TO THE RECENT MEETING OF THE ALBANIAN PARTY WHICH IS DECIDEDLY CLOSER TO PEKING THAN THE SOVIET-TILTING HANOI.

3. NEVERTHELESS, PEKING CONTINUES TO SEEK TO AVOID PUSHING HANOI CLOSER TO MOSCOW. DESPITE PUBLIC STRAINS IN THE SINO-VIETNAMESE RELATIONSHIP, CHINA'S PUBLIC POSTURE ON BOTH PARTY AND STATE LEVELS HAS BEEN BOTH CORRECT AND CIRCUMSPECT. CONSEQUENTLY, PRC MEDIA REPORTAGE ON THE VIETNAMESE WORKER'S PARTY CONGRESS IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE IN THIS VIEN, SELECTIVELY HIGHLIGHTING AREAS OF AGREEMENT, AND INDICATING PRC SUPPORT FOR VIETNAM'S PEACEFUL PURSUITS AT HOME AND ABROAD. GIVEN SOUTHEAST ASIAN WARINESS OF HANOI'S INTENTIONS TOWARD THE REGION AND PARTICULARLY THAILAND'S ENHANCED FEARS OF VIETNAM, THE ABSENCE OF A CHINESE DELEGATION IN HANOI, COUPLED WITH CIRCUMSPECT REPORTAGE, COULD PAY DIVIDENTS FOR THE PRC AS PEKING AND HANOI COMPLETE FOR INFLUENCE IN THE REGION.
CROSS

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